

**In the Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):**

1. A connecting structure for sectional rack, comprising:
- a plurality of vertical posts, a plurality of horizontal shelves, a plurality of connecting members, a plurality of pads adapted to attach to said connecting members, and a plurality of outer covers separately provided at each corner of said horizontal shelves for engaging with said connecting members and said pads;
- each of said vertical posts being provided with at least one row of engaging holes, with which said connecting members are engaged to attach to said vertical post;
- each of said connecting members being provided at a first end with upper and lower hooks adapted to extend into two vertically adjacent engaging holes on said vertical post and thereby ~~hold~~ holding said connecting member to said vertical post; a second end of said connecting member opposite to said first end being located outside said vertical post and formed into a hooking section for engaging with said outer cover provided at each corner of said horizontal shelf;
- each of said pads having a first side adapted to fitly bear against an outer surface of said vertical post, and a second side of said pad opposite to said first side being a downward and outward inclined surface; said pad being provided at predetermined positions with upper and lower openings, through which said upper and lower hooks of said connecting member ~~may~~ be adopted to be passed to engage with said pad and extend into said engaging holes on said vertical post; and
- each of said outer covers having an open outer side facing toward said vertical post and an open bottom, and being provided with two internal walls, which are downward and inward

inclined surfaces adapted to fitly bear against said inclined surface at the second side of said pad when said pad is associated with said connecting member and covered by said outer cover;

whereby when said outer cover is fully engaged with said connecting member and said pad that have already been connected to said engaging holes on said vertical post, said ~~internal~~ inward inclined surfaces of said outer cover apply a pushing force against said inclined surface of said pad to firmly push said pad against the outer surface of said vertical post, while said outer cover pulls said connecting member outward via said hooking section to tightly press said upper and lower hooks of said connecting member against inner sides of said engaging holes, causing said outer cover, said connecting member, said pad, and said vertical post to tightly ~~connected~~ connect to one another for said horizontal shelf to be stably supported on said vertical posts.

Claim 2 (original):

2. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hooking section of said connecting member includes a retaining slot vertically downward extended from a top of said connecting member, and said outer cover is internally provided at a top with a vertically downward extended insertion plate adapted to extend into and engage with said retaining slot of said connecting member.

Claim 3 (original):

3. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hooking section of said connecting member includes a vertically extended guide rail, and said outer cover is internally provided with a guide space adapted to engage with said guide rail of said connecting member.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

4. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 3, wherein said outer cover

2 has two lateral sides that are ~~inward~~ stamped to form two projections, a ~~front~~ first side of  
3 each said projection facing toward said pad being a downward and inward inclined surface  
4 adapted to fitly bear against said inclined surface of said pad, and a space between a ~~rear~~  
5 second side of each said projection opposite to said front side and an inner wall surface of  
6 said outer cover forming said guide space.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

1 5. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 1, wherein said outer cover  
2 is provided at a top with a ~~long~~ cut, an inner end of which has a downward extended lug, and  
3 said connecting member is correspondingly provided at a top with a notch, whereby when  
4 said outer cover is put on said connecting member, said lug is extended into said notch on  
5 the top of said connecting member ~~so~~ while the top of said connecting member is extended  
6 into said ~~long~~ cut of said outer cover.

Claim 6 (currently amended):

1 6. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pad has an  
2 embedded metal piece, a portion of which is forward projected from the first side of said pad  
3 to form a nose, said nose being adapted to extend into a lower one of said two engaging holes  
4 on said vertical post engaged with said upper and lower hooks of said connecting member  
5 when said pad is firmly pushed against said vertical post by said outer cover, ~~and said nose~~  
6 ~~being located in said lower engaging hole close to an upper end thereof.~~

Claim 7 (original):

1 7. The connecting structure for sectional rack as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pad has two  
2 downward and outward inclined lateral sides between said first and said second side to define  
3 a downward increasing width between said two lateral sides.